

**Legislative Testimony
Public Health Committee**

HB 6814 AAC Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary

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Douglas B. Keck, DMD, MS

Members of the Public Health Committee, my name is Dr. Douglas B. Keck. I have been practicing dentistry in New Haven and Madison, Connecticut for 23 years. I teach pediatric dental residents at Yale-New Haven Hospital, and I am a HUSKY/Medicaid provider. In my private practice, I employ three full time hygienists and three full time dental assistants. In addition, I work with five full time hygienists and fifteen full time assistants at Yale- New Haven Hospital, all whom are in favor of this legislation. I am here to testify in favor of House Bill 6814 An Act Concerning Dental Assistants and Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries.

Expanded function dental auxiliaries exist in some form in 45 states in the United States and include states such as Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. In 2012, the Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDA) received a favorable evaluation from the Department of Public Health in Connecticut in the scope of practice review process. Both Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists could become Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries which, would allow them to expand the scope of services they provide to patients.

In fact, a cost efficient EFDA educational process can be designed to efficiently use the existing workforce and could be completed within one year. There is precedent and data that demonstrate that if an EFDA is employed properly, the dental office becomes more efficient. Offices that treat HUSKY/Medicaid patients could see more patients each day with an EFDA-designated dental assistant/hygienist who could provide additional services with their increased scope under the direct supervision of a dentist. The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) can provide educational assistance, curriculum, and assessment of competency as it has almost nationwide.

I would like to sincerely thank you for your time in allowing me to provide my testimony and am in hopes that you will support House Bill 6814. The Bill will provide a career ladder for dental assistants as well as dental hygienists and has been proven effective in 45 states. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas B. Keck, DMD, MS
149 Durham Road, Ste #33, Madison, CT, 06443

203-245-1454
dougkeck@earthlink.net